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Christine M. Citro
Printed name of person mailing correspondence

Christine M. Citro
Signature of person mailing correspondence

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hirata et al.

Art Unit: 1646

Serial No.: 09/214,982

Examiner: C. Saoud

Filed: January 14, 1999

Title: NOVEL VEGF-LIKE FACTOR

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

#9/Electro
C. Saoud
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REPLY

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed January 27, 2000, Applicants elect Group I. Applicants also respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the issue of whether Group IV must be pursued separately from Group I. Applicants submit that these two groups should be examined together.

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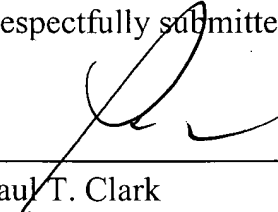
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Respectfully submitted,

Date:

March 7, 2000



Paul T. Clark
Reg. No. 30,162

Clark & Elbing LLP
176 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: 617-428-0200
Facsimile: 617-428-7045